

**Shelby County Fire Department
Headquarters
1075 Mullins Station Rd. Bldg. "C", 2nd floor
Memphis, TN 38134**



******* EVENT NOTIFICATION *******

Date: April 5, 2013

At 06:19 this morning, Shelby County Fire Department Dispatchers received a call to the 9-1-1 system notifying them that the home at 4703 Bethay was on fire. Apparatus from Engine Companies 63, 55, 62, Rescue 66, MedSquad 2, Battalion 10 and Battalion 21 along with two ambulances from Rural Metro were dispatched in addition to Deputies from the Office of the Shelby County Sheriff. Shelby County Engine 63 was on the scene in seven minutes and reporting smoke pushing from several sides of the home and that an attack on the fire was being started.

While the fire was being knocked down and also while additional equipment and personnel continued to arrive, the primary search of the residence began. The body of 45 year-old homeowner Gwendolyn Wallace was located on the second floor of the home. The cause of her death remains undetermined at this time - but one of the contributing factors would have been the inhalation of smoke and gasses coming from the blaze. Firefighters were challenged in reaching the second floor as the stair case leading there had been virtually consumed in the blaze and ladders from the engines had to be deployed to reach that floor of the home.

The interior of the 2,375 square foot home is heavily damaged and investigators from both the Shelby County Fire Department and the Office of the Shelby County Sheriff remain on the scene in their combined efforts to determine the exact cause of the fire as well as where it might have started. The home had a smoke detector and it is being checked to verify if it was in working order at the time of the fire. There were no injuries to fire fighters or other civilians and Mrs. Wallace is the sole casualty of this fire.

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